The number of train services should be increased and fixed at convenient times in the morning and evening between Punalur and Quilon. The motor coach service recently introduced had improved matters. But the timings required slight alterations. The services should be introduced on Sundays also.

The mail train proceeding from Quilon to Madras stopped at Punalur alone. Arrangements should be made for its halt at Avanisvaram also.

For purposes of Legislative Council elections, Pattanapuram and Shencotta together could return only one member. The two taluks were radically different both in physical and economic aspects. The extreme distance between the two was 50 miles. Pattanapuram should be made a separate constituency for purposes of Legislative Council elections.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Percy Bhanu, the High Court do not see any necessity for a Munsiff's Court at Punalur and they are the best judges.

As regards the Middle School for boys I have already given my answer in reply to the other member for Pattanapuram.

As regards the Vernacular Middle School for girls, to begin with, there is no accommodation. Secondly, it is not the policy of the Education Department to graft on Middle School classes to departmental schools. But the Director has thrown out another suggestion that if a private school is started there to teach up to the higher classes he would be prepared to give the matter his consideration.

As regards the question of special local allowance to teachers employed in hilly tracts, I am not aware that there are mountainous or unhealthy tracts in the Pattanapuram taluk.

Then, as regards the question of affording adequate aid to private aided schools in your place, I do not think there is any room for complaint in that matter. Like the rest of Travancore, the aided schools in your place also receive generous assistance from the department.

In regard to agricultural loans, I understand that the Revenue Department gives the Pattanapuram taluk its fair share of loans in proportion to other taluks.

The Director of Agriculture is arranging for a Veterinary Inspector to inspect your place twice a week, and, if after some experience that is found insufficient, the question of a special Veterinary Inspector for your place will be taken up.

You have heard what I said in regard to the Paper Mills dam.

Your suggestion that the Mail train should stop at Avanisvaram will be conveyed to the Railway authorities and they will be asked to arrange this as an experimental measure from the 1st of April next.

I am not prepared at present to revise the Electoral Roll. We cannot rearrange the constituency at present.

MEMBER : Boys' School—

DEWAN : As regards the Boys' School I have already given a reply—the same reply that I gave to the other member. A site has been selected and your suggestion will be considered.

100. Needs of the Shencotta taluk.

MR. S. K. SUBRAHMANYA AIYAR (*Member, Shencotta taluk*) first spoke about the necessity for opening a railway station at Anantapuram situated on the Tenkasi-Virudunagar line under construction. It was a central place and was easily accessible from the main villages of Elattur, Ayikudi, Klangad and Samburvadakara. The inhabitants of those *pakuthies* were obliged to go to the Valliammapuram railway station three miles away after crossing many *kals* and rivers flooded during the major part of the year. The matter had been brought to the notice of the benign Government but they decided that the opening of a station at Anantapuram was not practicable. The Chief Commercial Superintendent of Trichinopoly had also written to the member in reply to a representation made on the subject that the question of

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opening a station at Anantapuram would be considered after the line was opened for traffic. The matter might be reconsidered and the long-felt want of a large number of people satisfied.

Shencotta stood on the same footing as the five taluks of the old Padmanabhapuram Division and some of the taluks of the Trivandrum Division in the matter of eligibility for remission of tax. But under the Remission Rules, fallow remission was not granted in respect of the lands in the Shencotta taluk, although, prior to the passing of the said rules, such remission was allowable in the case of the Ayikudi, Klangad and Samburvadakara *pakuthies*. The late Dewan Peishkar Mr. V. Nagamiah had observed in paragraph 25 of the Settlement Memorandum that, the high rate of assessment in the abovesaid three *pakuthies* had been fixed without reference to the nature of the soil or the facilities for irrigation. One of the chief factors underlying the grant of seasonable remission was the levy of heavy wet assessment on lands without providing adequate facilities for water supply. It was a mistake to believe that *punja* cultivation in the three *pakuthies* was more paying than *nanja* cultivation. As a matter of fact, one *kotta* of land yielded 9 *kottas* of paddy for the Kumbham crop while it yielded only 3 to 4 *kottas* of maize when, for want of sufficient water, that crop was raised for the Kanni crop. In the other *pakuthies* of the taluk, one *kotta* of land yielded 9 *kottas* of paddy in the Kumbham crop and 12 *kottas* of paddy in the Kanni crop. In view of the above facts, the member prayed for remission of tax on lands on which *punja* crops were raised during Kanni for want of sufficient water.

The absence of a bridge across the Hanuman *nadi* on the Valliammapuram road was keenly felt by the people. There was an old causeway which could not be used even by pedestrians on account of its dilapidated condition. During times of flood the people of Klangad were shut out from all communication with the people on the other side of the river. Even food-stuffs could not be purchased because the shops were on one side. A bridge across the river at Ayikudi should therefore be constructed at an early date. The member knew that an estimate for the bridge had been prepared and submitted for sanction. He requested that early sanction might be accorded to it.

A bridge at Samburvadakara was also absolutely necessary. The causeway there was demolished because of the increasing damage caused by it. Instead of being useful as a bridge, it acted as a dam and obstructed the free flow of water along the river. During times of flood, it was not possible to cross the river. Even food-stuffs could not be procured as the shops were all situated on one side of the river. The Police station and the school were also on one side of the river. A bridge at Samburvadakara, the estimate for which had already been called for, should be constructed at an early date.

The need for proper grazing grounds had been the subject of representations in the Assembly and elsewhere. The cattle in the taluk were grazing on *patta* lands and on *poramboke* lands in certain cases. The difficulty was felt most keenly in the Shencotta town and the Puliyara pakuthi where there were absolutely no pasture grounds. The grazing grounds at the foot of the hills were reserved. The same was the case with Ayikudi, Klangad and Samburvadakara. There was, however, a grazing ground called Valiaparambu just on the eastern side of the camp-shed, but cattle were not allowed to graze there as it had been constituted into a reserve. Although the object of the reservation was to shut out foreign cattle, free passes were not issued to the owners of local cattle. The member therefore requested that the matter be enquired into and the ground made available for grazing purposes.

The majority of the people at Ayikudi mainly depended on the Hanuman *nadi* for their water supply but during summer, the river was almost completely dried up and the little water that remained was rendered unfit for drinking purposes by contamination. The only other source was the wells near the camp-shed situated at about two furlongs away from the Varadayyan *grāmam* and the East street of

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Ayikudi and the people found it very inconvenient to resort to the wells. The Sanitary Circle Inspector had recommended the sinking of two wells one in each of the two localities and they should be sunk at an early date.

The difficulties arising from the mistakes committed at the previous Settlement in respect of minor circuit areas were numerous. They had been brought to the notice of the Government on several previous occasions ; but, for want of funds, the Government did not undertake a re-survey. If a re-survey could not be undertaken, at least other remedial measures must be taken. The G. O. directing the disposal of individual cases on their merits was not of much practical use or benefit. The member therefore suggested that, pending correction of the mistakes, no encroachment cases in respect of minor circuit areas should be taken up, especially when the cases appeared to be of recent origin.

The Agricultural farm at Periasamiperi was situated in an out-of-the-way place so that the agriculturists of the town could not take advantage of the demonstration conducted there. Again, the articles produced there were so scanty and costly that the experiments demonstrated there could not be adopted in practice. A conference of the local ryots was held in the Taluk office and it was resolved that the experiment be tried in a few other places as well. In selecting such new places, attention should be concentrated on the town parts.

The existing road from Kesavapuram to Puliyara was in a damaged condition and unfit for wheeled traffic or even for use by pedestrians. There was great difficulty in carting manure to the paddy fields. The Chief Engineer had submitted an estimate for improving, widening and gravelling the road and the member requested that the estimate might be sanctioned and funds provided in the year 1102 itself.

The conditions of the Shencotta taluk were different from those obtaining in other taluks of the State. It resembled the Tinnevelly District in manners and customs. While the monetary jurisdiction of the Shencotta Munsiff's Court extended up to Rs. 2,000, that of the adjacent District Munsiff's Court at Tenkasi, which was only four miles away, extended up to Rs. 3,000. Money lenders having transactions both in Tenkasi and Shencotta and who could file suits either at Tenkasi or in the Quilon District Court, preferred to file their suits in the Tenkasi Court. Every year 20 to 25 suits which could be entertained by the Travancore courts were filed in the Tenkasi Court. It was not only inconvenient to the people but caused loss to the Government. The jurisdiction of the Shencotta Munsiff should be raised to Rs. 5,000. This proposal would not cause any additional burden to him as his magisterial work was not heavy.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Subrahmanya Aiyar, it is not for want of being benign that the Government did not open a station at Anantapuram. Firstly, the Virudunagar-Tenkasi line is not a Travancore line and we have got no say in the matter. Secondly, the construction of the line is such that the grading now is 1 in 200, and consequently a station cannot be located at any other site than Valliammapuram. That is what I am advised. But the Government will have no objection at all to placing your reasons before the S. I. R. authorities. The best solution will be to construct a feeder road connecting Valliammapuram to Ayikudi, 1½ miles away, with a bridge over Hanuman *nadi*. The Chief Engineer has promised to look into that possibility.

MEMBER: The bridge will be under water.

DEWAN: I think bridges are generally over water. That is the best I can do and I cannot promise anything which I cannot fulfil.

As for the levy of garden assessment on *nanja* lands you know that in the case of those three *pakuthies*, they are very exceptional and were found to be wet land growing dry crops at the time of the Settlement. So they were allowed to pay wet land tax. It will hardly be possible to change it now. Those who went in for dry cultivation in wet lands must have done so deliberately and with the full knowledge of what assessment they would have to pay. I can only assure you that the whole question will be taken up at the next Settlement.

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Then we come to the bridges. The Chief Engineer is looking into that matter.

As for grazing grounds for cattle I would suggest your communicating with the Conservator of Forests and enlisting his aid in restraining people who are practically levying fees when fees should not be levied. The Conservator is the man who can help you in that matter better than I can.

Then we come to wells in Brahmin streets at Ayikudi and Varadayyan *gramam*. Two estimates have been sanctioned and I see that there is also provision in the current year's budget for the purpose. Your wishes will be borne in mind with regard to encroachments on minor circuit areas. Whether full compliance will be possible it is difficult for me to say at present.

As for demonstration and the experimental farm, if you will convey your suggestions to the Director of Agriculture, he will try as far as possible to give effect to them. But the benign Government, I am afraid, may not entertain the idea of transferring the farm to the heart of the town. I have yet to learn that agriculturists and farm-labourers are town-dwellers.

As regards the jurisdiction of the Munsiff's Court at Shencotta which you propose should be raised to Rs. 3,000, so as to fall in line with that of the Tenkasi Civil Court, with the object of getting 20 or 25 cases a year from Tenkasi to Shencottah, I do not think it is worth while for the Government for the sake of gaining Rs. 2,000 or so, a year to make a departure from the fixed arrangement in regard to the jurisdiction in civil courts throughout the State. I do not propose to make any exception in this matter.

101. Needs of the Shencotta taluk.

MR. S. LAKSHMANA KARAYALAR (*Member, Municipal Council, Shencotta*) said that, for the whole of the Shencotta taluk, there was only one Government hospital located in the town. It could not be availed of by the people living in Ayikudi, Samburvadakara and the neighbouring villages which were situated at a distance of 8 to 11 miles from Shencotta. At least a dispensary should be opened at Ayikudi.

The Hanuman *nadi*, running through the villages of Ayikudi and Samburvadakara, had no bridges across it and all traffic, both wheeled and pedestrain, had to pass along the bed of the river. There were casualties every year during floods. To avoid future accidents, two bridges should be constructed across the river one at Ayikudi and the other at Samburvadakara.

The villages in the Shencotta taluk had no adequate supply of drinking water. The streams were dirty and the water impure. The number of public wells was few and besides they were dried up during summer. To improve the water supply in the taluk, new wells should be sunk in the several villages and such of the wells as were neglected should be repaired. The Public Works Department might be asked to enquire into the matter and do the needful.

Several industries were carried on in the Shencottah taluk and they deserved encouragement. The flax industry at Ayikudi for example was a very important one. The cultivation of flax, the extraction of fibre and the weaving of the fibre into gunny and canvas formed the chief pursuits of the Chanappa Chetties of the locality. If proper encouragement or protection was afforded, the whole of the supply of flax goods needed for various purposes in the taluk and for transport outside could be produced.

Similarly, the weavers of the taluk were an industrious class and lived in colonies at Samburvadakara and Shencotta. If adequate protection be given, the whole demand for coarse fabric for men and women could be met locally.

The pottery industry also needed encouragement.

The people engaged in the above industries lacked capital, and it was difficult to get loans on easy terms. A committee of officials and non-officials should be appointed to go into the question and suggest remedial measures and the Government should take immediate action on the lines of the recommendations of such a committee.

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